AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled without prejudice) A method of multicasting announcements in a communication network, the method comprising:

establishing an address in a memory;

forming an announcement;

determining when the announcement will be played to the address; and

broadcasting the announcement to the address.

2. (cancelled without prejudice) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating the address to a device, and retrieving the announcement from the address.~~.~~

3. (cancelled without prejudice) The method of claim 1 wherein the announcement is a tone.

4. (cancelled without prejudice) The method of claim 3 ~~4~~ wherein the tone is a call-ringing tone.

5. (cancelled without prejudice) The method of claim 4 wherein the tone is a call-routing tone.

6. (currently amended) A system of ~~providing~~ multicasting ~~for~~ announcements, the system comprising:

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HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, 32ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606
(312)913-0001

a caller device;

a proxy coupled to the caller device;

~~a called party device, the called party device coupled to the proxy;~~

an announcement server, the announcement server coupled to the proxy, the announcement server determining when selected announcements will be played to a plurality of addresses in a memory and ~~continuously~~ broadcasting the selected announcements to the ~~an~~ addresses in the ~~a~~ memory, the announcement server communicating the plurality of addresses to the proxy;

wherein the proxy communicates an ~~the~~ address of the plurality of addresses to the caller device; and

wherein the caller device retrieves an ~~the~~ announcement from the address.

7. (currently amended) The system of claim 6 wherein the announcement received by the caller device is a tone.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 6 wherein ~~the tone is a ringing tone~~ the caller device switches from receiving the first announcement by listening on the first multicast address to receiving a second announcement of the plurality of announcements by listening on a second multicast address received from the proxy.

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 6 wherein the plurality of announcements transmitted by the announcement server are transmitted according to the Real Time Protocol. ~~The system of claim 8 wherein the tone is a call-routing tone~~.

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10. (canceled without prejudice) The system of claim 7 wherein the message is an INVITE message.

11. (currently amended) ~~A method of multicasting announcements, the method comprising:~~

~~determining when an INVITE message will be transmitted to a called party device;~~

~~transmitting the INVITE message to the a called party device;~~

~~receiving responsively to the INVITE message, a response message from the called party device, the response message including a Real Time Protocol destination address; and~~

~~locating the Real Time Protocol destination address and obtaining a broadcasted announcement from the Real Time Protocol destination address.~~

A method for multicasting announcements, comprising:

transmitting at least one announcement to at least one multicast address of a plurality of multicast addresses;

transmitting the plurality of multicast addresses to a proxy;

establishing a call between a caller device and a called party device via the proxy, wherein the proxy transmits the at least one multicast address of the plurality of multicast addresses to the caller device, and the caller device receives the at least one multicast address;

determining when to listen to a received multicast address at the caller device;

listening to the received multicast address at the caller device to receive the at least one announcement.

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12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one announcement is a ~~call routing~~ tone.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one announcement is ~~a ringing tone~~ transmitted according to the Real Time Protocol.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the proxy transmits the at least one multicast address of the plurality of multicast addresses to the caller device ~~response message is~~ in a "100 Trying" message.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the proxy transmits the at least one multicast address of the plurality of multicast addresses to the caller device ~~response message is~~ in a "180 Ringing" message.

16. (currently amended) A method of multicasting announcements, the method comprising:

establishing ~~an~~ a plurality of multicast addresses;

forming a plurality of announcements;

choosing a first multicast address from the plurality of multicast addresses;

choosing a first announcement from the plurality of announcements;

transmitting the first multicast address to a caller device via a proxy;

determining when the first announcement will be transmitted to the first multicast address; and

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HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
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CHICAGO, IL 60606
(312)913-0001

transmitting the first announcement to the first multicast address.

~~determining when the plurality of announcements will be played to the address;~~

~~playing the plurality of announcements to a distinct address in a memory device; and~~

~~allowing multiple entities to retrieve the announcement from any of the distinct addresses.~~

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 ~~wherein the announcement being played at a particular address is switched substantially immediately to another announcement~~ further comprising:

choosing a second multicast address from the plurality of multicast addresses;

choosing a second announcement from the plurality of announcements;

transmitting the second multicast address to the caller device via a proxy;

determining when the second announcement will be transmitted to the second multicast address;

transmitting the second announcement to the second multicast address.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein each of the announcements is a tone.

19. (currently amended) An announcement server comprising:

means for initiating the ~~broadcasting~~ multicasting of announcements;

means for determining ~~an~~ a plurality of addresses to ~~broadcast~~ multicast the announcements;

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CHICAGO, IL 60606
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means for determining when the announcements will be ~~played~~ transmitted to the addresses;

means for communicating the ~~address~~ plurality of addresses to a proxy, the proxy communicating the ~~address~~ plurality of addresses to a caller device; and

means for ~~broadcasting~~ multicasting the announcements to the ~~address~~ plurality of addresses.

20. (currently amended) The announcement server of claim 19 wherein means for multicasting the announcements to the plurality of addresses includes means for continuously multicasting the announcements to the plurality of addresses. ~~A method of determining announcements, the method comprising:~~

~~initiating the broadcasting of announcements;~~

~~determining an address to broadcast the announcements;~~

~~determining when the announcements will be played to the address;~~

~~communicating the address to a proxy, the proxy communicating the address to a caller device; and~~

~~continuously broadcasting the announcements to the address.~~

21. (currently amended) The announcement server of claim 19, further comprising means for a caller device to switch between receiving two announcements. ~~A system of multicasting announcements in a communication network, the system comprising:~~

~~means for establishing an address in a memory;~~

~~means for forming an announcement; and~~

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~~means for determining when the announcement will be played to the address;~~

~~means for broadcasting the announcement on the address.~~

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 21 further comprising means for communicating the address to a device, and ~~a~~ means for retrieving the announcement from the address.

23. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~21~~ 19 wherein the ~~announcement is a tone~~ announcements are tones.

24. (currently amended) The system of claim 23 wherein ~~the tone~~ a tone used for announcements is a call-ringing tone.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 23 wherein ~~the tone~~ a tone used for announcements is a call-routing tone.

26. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the following method:

establishing a plurality of multicast addresses;

forming a plurality of announcements;

choosing a first multicast address from the plurality of multicast addresses;

choosing a first announcement from the plurality of announcements;

transmitting the first multicast address to a caller device via a proxy;

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determining when the first announcement will be transmitted to the first multicast address; and

transmitting the first announcement to the first multicast address.

~~establishing an address in a memory;~~

~~forming an announcement;~~

~~determining when the announcement will be played to the address; and~~

~~broadcasting the announcement to the address.~~

27. (cancelled without prejudice) A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the following method:

initiating the broadcasting of announcements;

determining an address to broadcast the announcements;

determining when the announcements will be played to the address;

communicating the address ~~announcements~~ to a proxy, the proxy communicating the address to a caller device; and

~~continuously~~ broadcasting the announcements to the address.

28. (cancelled without prejudice) A computer program for processing announcements, the program comprising:

first code for establishing an address in a memory;

second code for forming an announcement; and

third code for broadcasting the announcement on the address.

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CHICAGO, IL 60606
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29. (canceled without prejudice) A computer program for processing announcements, the program comprising:

first code for initiating the broadcasting of announcements;

second code for determining an address to broadcast the announcements;

third code for communicating the announcements to a proxy, the proxy communicating the address to a caller device; and

fourth code for broadcasting the announcements to the address.

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HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, 32ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606
(312)913-0001